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ERE leader Panayiotis Kanellopoulos returned to King Paul yesterday afternoon "exploratory mandate" given him December 24. Kanellopoulos had been asked by King to examine if he could form viable government from present Parliament to replace Papandreou government which resigned Christmas eve. In statement issued yesterday evening, ERE chief said he told King he unable to form government in accordance with authorization given him.

Kanellopoulos said he advised King he strongly opposed new elections because (1) Cyprus situation and (2) "dangerous sensitivity" which country's economic life has shown in recent months. Referring to his December 26 meeting with Prime Minister Papandreu, Kanellopoulos said by refusing agree formation government from present Parliament, Papandreu had committed "provocation towards regime and people". Commenting on Papandreu's proposal for creation Crown Council to handle foreign affairs during electoral period, Kanellopoulos said idea was good one but that it would not be able to act fast enough on national questions.

While opposing elections at present time as "not in national interest", Kanellopoulos said his party did not fear elections.

He expressed

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-2- 926, December 28, 1 p.m., from Athens

He expressed his certainty that if elections held Greek people would compare "our calm and democratic stand with irreconcilable movement of CU towards anomalies and adventures".

Meanwhile, CU sources predict confidently that within next few days King will dissolve Parliament and proclaim new elections for either February 9 or 16. There is considerable speculation about composition caretaker government should new elections be proclaimed, with Deputy Governor Bank of Greece Paraskevo-
poulos mentioned as likely caretaker Prime Minister. Matter now in hands of King and his decision expected by Monday.

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